EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DG HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY
DG COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS, CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY

eHealth-units

18ᵀᴴ EHEALTH NETWORK, 12-13 NOVEMBER 2020, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

COVER NOTE

10.3   D8.2.4 Common eID Strategy for health in the European Union - eHAction

1. Issue at stake

The known legal interpretations of the eIDAS Regulation concerning the existence or non-existence of a legal obligation to implement eID for patients vary significantly within Member States. The same applies for the health professionals. The prevailing opinion is that eHealth Digital Service Infrastructure (eHDSI) services (patient summary and ePrescription/eDispensation) and their use cases are in-person (not on-line) in the country of treatment (country B). Therefore, eIDAS is outside the current scope of eHDSI, although it could be beneficial for future services or use cases (such as patient access to clinical information in a different Member State). Consequently, additional means, services and mitigation strategies need to be identified to assure minimum-level interoperability of eID schemes that guarantee standardised, high-technological performance and secure schemes; or to encourage Member States to enable purely virtual identification and authentication such as mobile eID to compensate for specific interoperability issues with eID based on physical tokens.

2. Summary

This document aims to present the basis, the rationale, and a timely proposal for a common strategy in eID for health, not just at cross-border level, but rooted in timely adoption at national level.

In alignment with other eID initiatives and recommendations from the Commission and the eHealth Network, such as electronic health record exchange format[1] (EHRxF, the eHAction proposes a "Common Strategy for using eID" with the following goals:

1. Structure a common approach on health eID within the EU.

2. Converge development roadmaps for eHDSI services with adoption of eID cross-border services, like connectors between eIDAS nodes and NCPeHs, also to ensure phased adoption of novel requirements regarding electronic identification that are progressively more demanding.

The current proposal includes a description of the state of the art about electronic identification, a brief definition of the use cases (for patients and professionals); it proposes policy principles and a governance framework as well as presents 11 recommendations and a 5-year roadmap for the strategy implementation.

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[1]   https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/recommendation-european-electronic-health-record-exchange-format

3.   Format of procedure in the meeting

For adoption.